

## LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF JOHN MOSHIER.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 359.]

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MARCH 19, 1860.

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Mr. FENTON, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

### REPORT.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of the heirs of Lieutenant John Moshier, submit the following report :*

In his petition it is alleged, and your committee see no reason to doubt the truthfulness of the statement, that he was engaged in the skirmish at Concord and in the battles of Lexington and Bunker Hill ; also in that of Saratoga, at the time of Burgoyne's capture ; and finally, in that of Monmouth, where, overcome by fatigue, exposure, and the intense heat, he was carried from the field. He never fully recovered from the sufferings and exposure of this battle, as he was never afterwards able to attend to his ordinary business as he had been before. In warm weather particularly, until his death, he was incapable of attending to any business requiring any bodily exertion. The papers show the following facts: May 19, 1775, he received a commission as second lieutenant from the Congress of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay, signed by Joseph Warren ; January 1, 1776, he received a similar commission from the Congress of the United Colonies, signed by John Hancock ; and was authorized by the State of Massachusetts to raise a company, in the November following ; January 1, 1777, he was commissioned as lieutenant by order of Congress. He also has a furlough, signed by De Kalb. But the paper which your committee deem conclusive is the following : " This may certify that Lieutenant John Moshier, of the 8th Massachusetts regiment, served in said regiment as a lieutenant from January 1, 1777, to January 1, 1780, and then retired on the resolutions of Congress of October 3 and 21, 1780, as supernumerary officer. During the service he ever behaved as an officer and gentleman." The signature to this certificate is torn off, apparently for the purpose of securing the autograph. Three of the sons of John Moshier, two of whom are still living, and one of whom is a clergyman, make affidavit in due form that they have seen the name of George Washington attached to this certificate. From this testimony, together with that of the handwriting, recognized by some of your committee as his, they do not doubt the genuineness of this certificate. This seems to be conclusive, as there is no evidence that he ever received his commutation or even elected to receive it. Your committee therefore report a bill.

